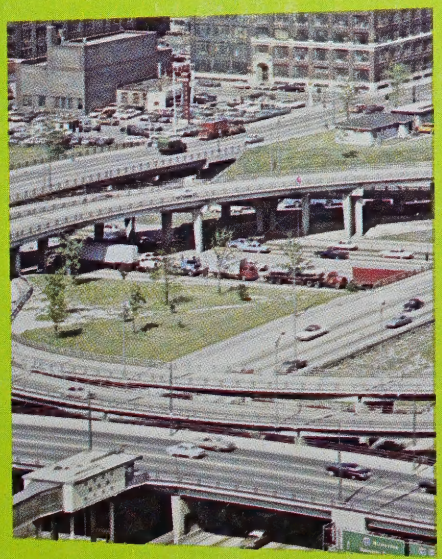
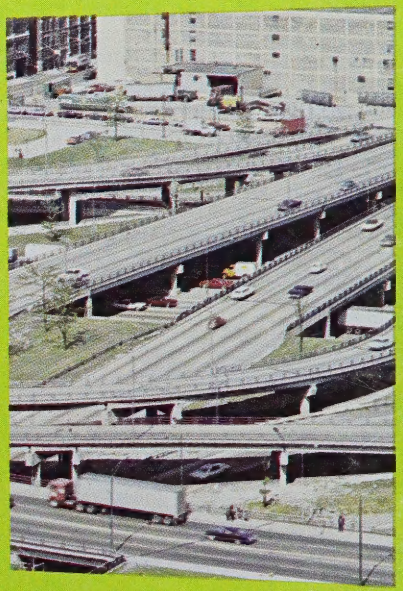
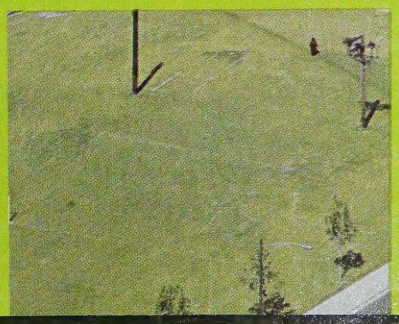
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION







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Unit 5

Transportation and Communication

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Everyday people travel from one place to another. You traveled to school today. Someone else in your family may travel today. Why do we travel?

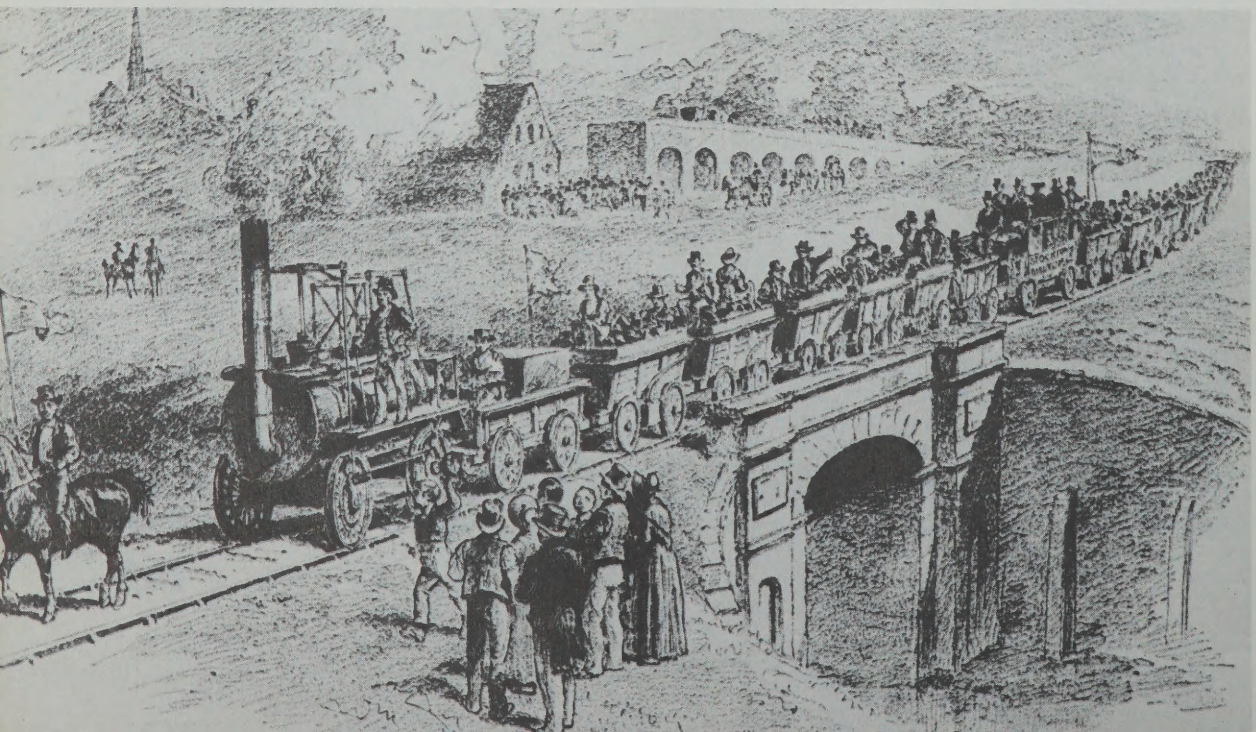
100

[4]

People can choose among different ways of traveling. People can travel by bus, taxi, train, or car. What are some other ways to travel? All these ways of traveling are called **transportation.**

The kind of transportation we choose may depend on how far we want to go. It may depend on how much time we have. What are other reasons for choosing a certain way to travel?

Many years ago travel was difficult. Roads were narrow and rough. People rode slowly in horse-drawn carriages. Goods were carried in horse-drawn wagons. Why do you think many people were eager to ride the first trains?



Travel began to change when motors took the place of horses. However, there were still some problems. The first cars did not go very fast. These cars also gave bumpy rides.

Better cars and roads were built. Why do you think new roads were needed for the cars?

More people and goods can be carried today than ever before. Yet travel is still changing. How do you think travel will change in the future?

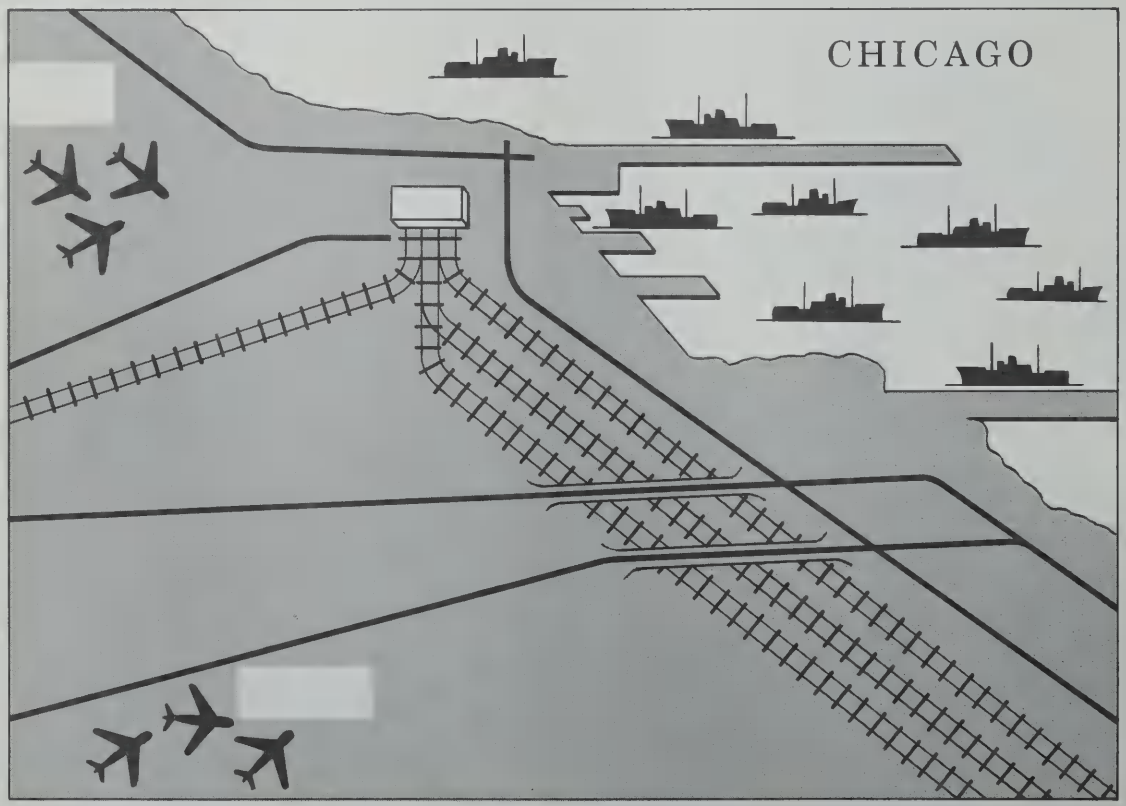
What places do you see?
Which ones might be in your community?
How far are they from your house?
To which of these places would you go by foot? by car? by boat? by train? by plane?
What are some other places you could visit by using some form of transportation?
What form of transportation would you use?

Although transportation is faster and easier today, there are still many problems. Cars, trucks, and buses crowd highways. People and planes crowd airports. What causes these problems? What do you think we can do to help solve them?

Snow can make traveling difficult. How does weather cause other transportation problems?

Chicago is a center of transportation. Look at the map of Chicago. What kinds of transportation are shown on the map?

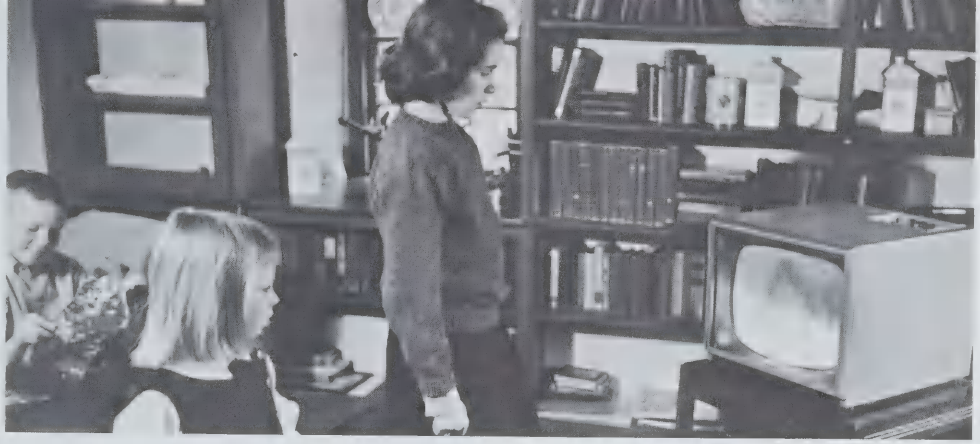
If a city is to grow, why does it need many kinds of transportation?



KEY:

Railroad Tracks — Highways — Airplanes — Ships

Suppose you saw these newspaper headlines. How would the news affect transportation? Draw pictures showing what you think would happen.



What can a smile tell you? What does it mean when people shake hands? What do you think when you see a frown or hear the word "no"?

These are all ways that people tell each other something. They are ways that people **communicate** with each other. The pictures on this page show some of the ways people communicate. What forms of communication do you use?

People communicate with each other even when they are apart. In Africa, some people used to send messages on drums. The American Indians used to send smoke signals. How are both of these a form of communication? When can they be useful?

People who are apart can communicate by mail. Why do people like to communicate by writing letters?

Years ago mail was sent west by pony express. You can see a picture of a pony express rider on this page. It took a few weeks for a letter to get from New York to California. Today an airmail letter can take one day.

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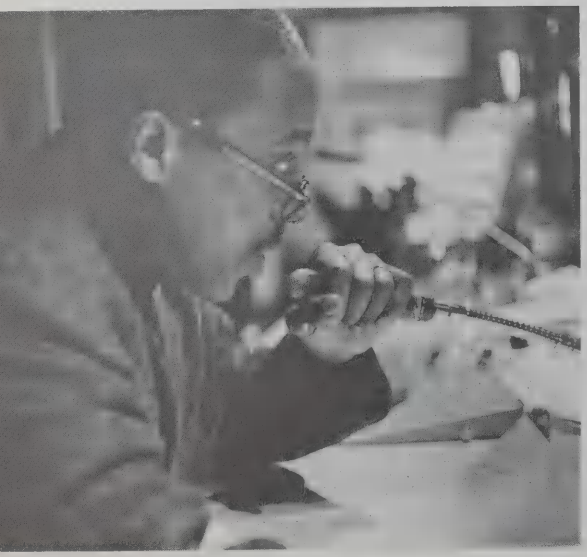
What is an easy way to find out if your friend is home? What is the quickest way to thank your aunt for your birthday present? The answer is the telephone. How would our lives be different if we could not communicate by telephone?



Sometimes people need to communicate with many other people. Suppose the President wants to tell all Americans about a new plan. Do you think he would do it by telephone? Why might he choose radio or television to tell his news?

How are radio and television alike? How are they different?

NBC NEWS
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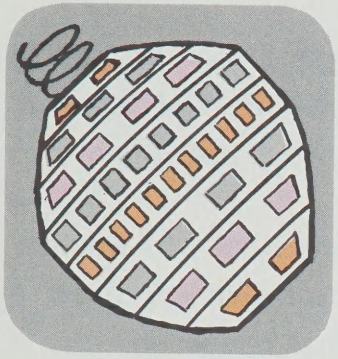
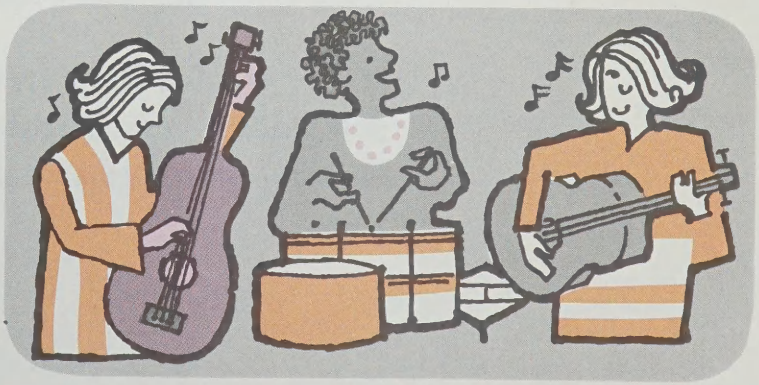
Newspapers are another way to communicate with many people at once. How is a newspaper like a book? How is it like radio and television?

How are these forms of communication?
What feelings are they communicating?





How are these forms of communication alike?
How are these forms of communication different?

1. Keep a diary for a week. Write down the places to which you travel and how you get there.

2. Plan a visit to an airport, railroad station, or post office. Make a list of the jobs found in each place. Tell your class what you found.

3. Was there ever a time that bad weather stopped you from going somewhere? Draw a comic strip showing how that happened.

4. Imagine what life was like in the United States about fifty years ago, when there were very few cars. Do you think living then would have some good points? some bad points? Make a list that tells both good and bad points.

5. What different types of transportation can you take in your neighborhood? Draw pictures showing these types of transportation.

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